

client according to a request from the client;

a holding section holding an index image displaying a single picture to be display according to the display control file; and

a providing section providing an index image held by the holding section according to a request from a searching server, wherein the providing section provides, to the searching server, an index image to be included in a searched result corresponding to a searching request that the searching server receives from the client, the searched result including the index image is provided from the searching server to the client.

2. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, further comprising an index image creating section creating an index image on the basis of the display control file.

3. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, wherein the storing section stores a display file related to the display control file, and wherein the index image displays contents displayed by the display control file and the display file.

4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held an information providing server, comprising:

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to each file received from the information providing server;

a storing section storing the index image created by the index image creating section;

a receiving section receiving a searching request from the client;

a searching section searching a file corresponding to the searching request, obtaining an index image corresponding to the searched file from said storing section, and generating a searched result corresponding to the searching request, the searched result including the obtained index image and link information to be access to the information providing server; and

a transmitting section transmitting, to the client, the searched result generated by said searching section.

5. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 4, wherein the transmitting section transmits the index image, the link information and a corresponding file

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received from the information providing server to the client.

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7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held an information providing server, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each file held by the information providing server;

a searching section extracting an element information corresponding to a searching request given from the client from the element information storage section;

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to the element information extracted by the searching section; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the created index image, as a response corresponding to the searching request, created by the index image creating section to the client.

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8. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 7, further comprising a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted by said searching section and the index image created by said index image creating section,

wherein the transmitting section transmitting a searched result including a display control file, as the response corresponding to the request, created by the display control file creating section to the client.

9. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with files held by a plurality of information providing servers, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each file held by each of the information providing servers;

an index image creating section creating and holding an index image corresponding to element information of each file collected by said element information storage section;

a searching section extracting, from the index image creating section, an index image corresponding to a searching request given from the client; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the index image extracted by the searching section, as a response to the searching request to the client.

10. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 9, wherein the searching section extracts, from the element information storage section, element information corresponding to the searching request given from the client,

the mediation server further comprises a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted and an index image corresponding to the element information, and

the transmitting section transmits to the client a searching result including the display control file, as a response to the searching request, created by the display control file creating section.

11. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal for referring to a file, the file is held an information providing server and including a display control file and a display file related to the display control file, comprising:

a transmitting/receiving section transmitting a searching request of the file to a mediation server and receiving a searched result from the mediation server;

an index image creating section automatically creating an index image for displaying each of contents of the display control file and the display file received from the information providing server by a single picture, wherein the display control file and the display file corresponding to the searched result; and

a display section displaying contents of the searched result received from the mediation server together with the index image.

12. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section sequentially displays the plurality of index images created while being changed over.

13. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section displays the plurality of index images and a piece of character information included in the searched result in arrangement on the same window.

14. (AS UNAMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates the index images corresponding to each of the files received in accordance with a predetermined priority, and

the display control section sequentially displays the plurality of created index images in the sequence of being created by the index image creating section.

15. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file including a display character string and a control character string for controlling a display, comprising:

creating an index image displaying contents displayed by the display control file by a single picture; and

transmitting an index image created together with the display control file to a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching requesting including the display control file and the index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

16. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file and a display file relate to the display control file, comprising:

creating an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

transmitting the index image together with the display control file to a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

17. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server comprising:

obtaining element information of each file held an information providing server;
extracting a piece element information corresponding to a search request given from a client among the obtained element information;
creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image corresponding to the extracted element information; and
transmitting the searched result including the created index image to the client.

18. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 17, further comprising:

creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image; and
transmitting the searched result including the display control file to the client.

19. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server, comprising:

obtaining and storing element information of files held by an information providing server;
creating and holding index images corresponding to each of the stored element information;
extracting an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client from the held index images; and
transmitting a search result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image to the client.

20. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 19, further comprising:

extracting a piece of element information corresponding to the extracted index image among the stored element information;
creating a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image; and

transmitting a searched result including the created display control file to the client.

21. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal, comprising:
receiving a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a searching server;
receiving a file corresponding to the searched result from an information providing server, the received file containing a display control file and a display file;
automatically creating an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and
displaying the created index image together with the searched result.

22. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal according to claim 21, further comprising displaying contents of the received file together with the index image.

23. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:
a program by which an information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, display contents of a display control file including a display character string and control character string for controlling displaying; and
a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

24. (AS UNAMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

25. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs

executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:

a program by which the information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, display contents of a display control file and a display file relating to the display control file; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation transmits to a client a searched result including the index image corresponding to a searching request from the client.

26. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

27. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:

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a program by which a mediation server collects a piece of element information of each file held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server extracts a piece of element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information;

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image corresponding to the extracted element information; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created index image to the client.

28. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the programs further comprises:

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the

created display control file to the client.

29. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which a mediation server collects a plurality of element information of files held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server creates index images corresponding to each of the collected element information;

a program by which the mediation server extracts an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the created index images and generates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client.

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30. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the programs further comprising:

a program by which the mediation server extracts an element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information;

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image file; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client.

31. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with a program executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which the reference terminal receives a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a mediation server;

a program by which the reference terminal receives from an information providing server a display control file and display file related to the display control file corresponding to the searched result;

a program by which the reference terminal automatically creates an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

a program by which the reference terminal displays the created index image together with the searched result.

32. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server, providing a client with information including image and text according to a request of the client, comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file for displaying a text and an image on a screen of the client;

a holding section holding a piece of index image data corresponding to the information; and

a providing section providing the index image data with a mediation server in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from the client, creates a searched result including display control file and an index image corresponding to the searching request that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

33. (AS UNAMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, further comprising:

a creating section creating the index image data based on the display control file.

34. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the index image data includes a piece of data for displaying an image in which a display size of an image displayed on a screen of the client as the information is reduced.

35. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the information is provided as a home page, and the index image displays a text and an image displayed on a first page of a home page by a display size smaller than an original size of the first page.